

Table of Contents

1. [Coral and Pearl](#)

Coral and Pearl

Gems in the Chapter:

Black Coral: Hawai'i

Star Sapphire: America

Philippine Pearl: Philippines (duh)

Blue Diamond: Britain

Quartz #1/LP: Lower Peninsula

Quartz #2/EJ: East Jersey

Chlorastrolite: Upper Peninsula

Amethyst: Michigan (Fusion of Lower and Upper Peninsula)

Garnet: West Jersey

Franklinite: New Jersey (Fusion of West and East Jersey)

Peridot: Kalahui

Rainbow Quartz: Aloha

Black Coral felt like an idiot. She should have seen this coming, seen the signs. Why would a Sapphire take an interest in her if not to *acquire* her for his collection?

She knew she was rare, a mistake, a seriously defective gem that was meant to be a quartz until something had gone horribly wrong, but her defective nature and strange gem were exotic and fun enough that she wasn't shattered for it. She knew she was on the same level as a Pearl, but she wasn't a made-to-order servant and was allowed to be her own gem.

As much as one could be in this society.

But it did explain the appearance of Philippine Pearl, why he was here to.

Blue Diamond's favorite Sapphire had acquired them both, new gems to his collection. Black Coral really should have seen this specifically coming. Star Sapphire was known for his habit of collecting gems that were odd or rare and hadn't bought a pearl yet.

This was an excellent opportunity for him.

Black Coral hated it.

She would have run by now if it hadn't been for the fact that she was on Homeworld and had nowhere to escape to. She couldn't leave Philippine Pearl behind either; he was one of her few true friends, and Black Coral would rather be shattered than purposely leave him behind.

"So, did Star send you to ensure we can't escape?" Black Coral asked, ignoring Philippine Pearl's wide-eyed gaze of shock at her lack of title and calling Star Sapphire by a name only used by the gems that outranked him. The two quartzes exchanged looks before one smiled.

"Don't worry, Black Coral, Star's not like that," the one Quartz said.

"He's better than most other gems that are this high up. For obvious reasons—ow!" the second quartz cut himself off as the first reached over Black Coral and Philippine Pearl to smack him on the head.

"EJ, we can't talk about that," the first quartz said. The second quartz—EJ—rolled his eyes.

"Everyone here is loyal to Star and knows already," EJ said.

"Yes, but it is up to Star to tell them, not us. How would you feel if someone went behind your back talking about *your* relationship with Garnet?" the first quartz asked. EJ crossed his arms.

"I get your point, LP. You can stop guilting me. The point I wanted

to make is that Star isn't like the other gems or other sapphires. The only bad thing about living with him is that Blue Diamond comes in now and again and starts ranting about his current problem before demanding that Star see a future where it is fixed," EJ explained, causing Black Coral and Philippine Pearl to exchange looks.

Blue Diamond was the easiest to anger of the diamonds and very quick to shatter anyone who made him mad. Black Coral didn't want to have to spend more time around the Diamonds. She struggled enough with the honorifics and formalities of Homeworld, and if a Diamond saw her insult Star Sapphire, she would be in a world of trouble.

Black Coral was silent for the rest of the trip, taking comfort in Philippine Pearl when he put his hand in her and squeezed it, something that EJ and LP didn't comment on. Black Coral could be grateful for that, at least.

When they arrived in Star Sapphire's room, the gem was pacing around, talking rapid fire to a small green gem who was sitting beside him, a Chlorastrolite if Black Coral was right. Another rare gem, usually only working for Diamonds. Then again, Star Sapphire liked collecting rare gems.

Chlorastrolite noticed them first, and the grin that split her face was infectious.

"LP!" she called, rushing over to the quartz, embracing him before...before they fused. Philippine Pearl's mouth dropped open in horror as his eyes flittered over to Star Sapphire.

"EJ, Garnet is in the other room if you would like to become Franklinite again," Star Sapphire said. EJ nodded and quickly took his leave, leaving Black Coral and Philippine alone with the illegal fusion, Star Sapphire, and the knowledge that the other Quartz had left the room to create another illegal fusion.

"Your Clarity, I—" Philippine Pearl began, seemingly not thinking, before quickly slamming his mouth shut and lifting his hand into the Diamond salute. Black Coral scowled, glaring up at Star Sapphire.

"He's a nervous one," the fusion said. Star Sapphire laughed.

"You were once, too, Amethyst. We aren't exactly conventional here. It's okay, Philippine Pearl. There's no need for titles or salutes around me. You can call me Star, so long as no one from outside my inner circle is here, that is," Star Sapphire said. Black Coral's scowl deepened.

"If there's no need for titles or salutes, then why would you force us to be a part of your *collection*," Black Coral spat, tone venomous. Star Sapphire sighed as if he had expected the question but did not like it any less.

"Black Coral, you know how your gem is viewed. Blue Diamond has collected a fair few himself, as well as Yellow Diamond, and with your personality...well..." Star Sapphire trailed off.

"What's wrong with my personality?" Black Coral snapped, summoning her weapon as Philippine Pearl lept to stop her.

"Forgive her, Your Clar—Star. She's had a long day. She doesn't mean it!" Philippine Pearl said, hands pushing down Black Coral, fear in his eyes.

"Sorry, Black Coral, that came out wrong. What I meant to say is that you're hotheaded and impulsive, and that's okay, but if you anger the wrong person by mistake, there's no buffer to stop you from being shattered or..." Star Sapphire trailed off, and the fusion—Amethyst—put a hand on his shoulder. Star Sapphire patted it, and Black Coral scowled.

"I was fine where I was! I never encountered the Diamonds or any high-ranking gem until you! Everyone was fine with me there! I had friends there! Peridot and Rainbow Quartz, and you just—" Black Coral threw her hands in the air, trying to hold back a scream.

"I know this is different from what you're used to, Black Coral, but I won't stop you from seeing them. I just...I want to protect as many people as I can, allow them to be themselves without being punished. I'm sure you've seen that with Amethyst. Anyone else would have him shattered," Star Sapphire said, Amethyst nodding in

agreement.

"I trusted you before, and you betrayed me," Black Coral spat.

"I hope you can learn to trust me again, then," Star Sapphire said.
Black Coral scowled.

Fool her once, shame on her, but she refused to be fooled again. She didn't know what Star Sapphire had planned, but she didn't trust it. No sapphire would allow an illegal fusion without ulterior motives...right?